

**Inaugural Meeting of the LLDCs' National Focal Points (NFP) Network Meeting
16 June 2022**

**Session 4: The role of partnerships and opportunities for technical assistance and
capacity building in implementation of the VPoA
10:30-12:00 EST**

IRENA contribution

Excellencies,

First, on behalf of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) let me thank the secretariat for organising this meeting and welcome the launch of LLDCs' national focal points network.

Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy, Sustainable Development Goal 7, is a key to achieve the Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement. Globally 733 million people live without access to electricity, of those, 215 million in LLDCs. In 11 out of 32 LLDCs electricity access rate falls below 50%. At the current pace of electrification, the world is likely to fail in achieving the SDG 7 by 2030.

For those of you, who don't know, IRENA is an intergovernmental organisation that supports countries in their transition to a sustainable energy future. It serves as the principal platform for international co-operation, a centre of excellence and a repository of policy, technology, resource and financial knowledge on renewable energy.

IRENA promotes the widespread adoption and sustainable use of all forms of renewable energy, including bioenergy, geothermal, hydropower, ocean, solar and wind energy, in the pursuit of sustainable development, energy access, energy security and low-carbon economic growth and prosperity. Most of the LLDCs are members of IRENA and hence eligible for IRENA support.

Electricity access is rightly highlighted in the Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA). IRENA supports the Roadmap for VPoA Implementation under the key action area 2.1 *"Promote energy efficiency and support LLDCs to expand and upgrade energy infrastructure, scale up projects on cross-border interconnectors and improve access to energy, including clean, sustainable and renewable energy"*. Let me just highlight some on-going activities we implement in LLDCs:

- Together with UNOHRLLS, IRENA is preparing the report **"Scaling up renewable energy in LLDCs"**, which will be launched next month on the margins of HLPF. The report outlines possible actions to scale-up renewable energy to bridge the energy access gap in LLDCs and assist these countries in harnessing the vast socio-economic benefits of renewables.
- IRENA supports LLDCs to assess conditions needed to accelerate renewable energy deployment through the **Renewable Readiness Assessment (RRA)** tool. With this regard, and in coordination with respective governments, RRA implementation is ongoing for Burkina Faso, and Kyrgyzstan.
- The Agency continues to support member countries, including LLDCs, to enhance renewable energy ambitions in the **National Determined Contributions (NDCs)**. Significant progress has been made, and substantive inputs are provided to: Afghanistan, Bhutan, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Chad, Eswatini, Kazakhstan,

Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Mali, Mongolia, Nepal, Niger, North Macedonia, Paraguay, Rwanda, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

- In connection to the **energy- health nexus**, the Agency, in partnership with the government of Burkina Faso and Mali, is conducting an assessment for the electrification of rural health facilities to facilitate electricity access to unelectrified primary rural health centres.
- IRENA continues to support countries in strengthening Investment Frameworks to support the realization of Renewable Energy projects. IRENA's ongoing collaboration with UNDP, SEforAll, the Green Climate Fund under the **Climate Investment Platform (CIP)** initiative provides a broader framework for strengthening investments in support of accelerating renewable energy investments.

As mentioned before, this is only a snapshot of our activities. IRENA Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations stands ready to provide more information on on-going and potential future support towards bridging the access gap and promoting energy transition powered with renewables. Our doors are always open and we look forward to cooperating with you.

Thank you very much.